



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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*Helping People
Help the Land*

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MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 360-7-1

SUBJECT: PER – SAFETY AND HEALTH – AED Machine

Purpose: Requirement for AED machines in work offices.

Expiration date: September 30, 2008

The MN State Office, all Area Offices, and the Waite Park and Wilmar Field Office have a Phillips Heart Start Model M5066A, AED machine. The AED machine is the Phillips HeartStart Defibrillator which enables virtually anyone to treat the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA).

According to information from Phillips, SCA strikes approximately 340,000 people in the U.S. alone. Since most people have no warning and no prior symptoms, only 5% survive. But, the likelihood of successful resuscitation decreases by about 10% with every minute that passes. SCA most often occurs when the electrical system of the heart become chaotic, causing it to stop beating effectively. Lacking proper blood flow, the person loses consciousness, stops breathing and will die unless promptly treated. CPR is important, but it alone cannot restore a normal heart rhythm. A “shock” from a defibrillator is the most effective way to restore the heart’s normal pumping rhythm.

NRCS Policy

NRCS employees must adhere to the following for an AED machine to remain in their office:

1. At a minimum, there must be one person designated as an AED responder and one person designated as AED responder back-up. You can have as many designated AED responders as believed necessary, but two is a minimum. The AED Responder is an employee who has had the training through the American Red Cross (ARC) or other approved trainer (contact S&H Officer if you have questions). The AED training is to be taken once per calendar year. The ARC class is currently called “Standard First Aid with AED”.
2. It is already policy that First Aid/CPR be taken once every three years, but it has been required to include AED training. It is recommended that all employees take “Standard First Aid with AED” training so all employees have exposure on how to operate an AED machine. Only the designated AED Responders would need the refresher each year.

3. A list of the designated AED Responders needs to be posted on/and or near the machine and on bulletin board in the office.

Contact Tammy Egerstrom or Cutrina Moreland, State Safety and Health Officers, if you have any questions or concerns.

/s/William Hunt

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: Area Offices
Wilmar Field Office
Waite Park Field Office